



George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forest Service Awards High Knob Tower Contract

Wise, Va. – The USDA Forest Service awarded the contract to construct the new High Knob Observation Tower to Dot Construction of Beaufort, North Carolina. Construction is scheduled to begin in July and is expected to be completed by the end of the 2013 calendar year. The High Knob parking lot entrance road, as well as a 100 yard perimeter around the construction site will close to public access once construction begins.

The original three story High Knob Observation Tower was destroyed by fire on October 31, 2007. Two local residents were charged and incarcerated for the crime. Since then, over 600 individuals and organizations, including the High Knob Enhancement Corporation, have worked collaboratively on a plan to rebuild the tower. Through these efforts, over \$500,000 was raised to help fund this project. Additionally, surrounding communities worked with the Forest Service and its partners to form a strategy for developing the new High Knob Observation Tower into a major tourist destination in southwest Virginia.

The Flatwoods Job Corps Center built the original tower in 1978. On a clear day, visitors to High Knob Observation Tower can stand 4,160 feet above sea level and see five states. High Knob Tower, adjacent to the High Knob Recreation Area, is a popular destination for camping, picnicking, hiking and swimming. For more information on the High Knob Observation Tower, please contact the Clinch Ranger District at: (276) 382-2931.

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.